

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR MICHAEL N. GIANARIS
12TH DISTRICT
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Honorable Kathy Hochul,
Governor, New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224
November 2, 2023

Dear Governor Hochul,

New York's Jewish and Muslim communities are experiencing an unprecedented security challenge in order to protect the children and families who frequent the institutions integral to their community and daily life. At a recent meeting, interfaith leaders from these communities expressed a particularly glaring need for help securing the buildings used to educate their children.

With the increased threat of attacks and extremist hate-crimes against both the Jewish and Muslim communities, it is incumbent on us to lead by taking preventive action to protect New Yorkers and make such institutions safer.

In the 2022 annual budget, you proposed, and the legislature allocated, \$45 million for the Nonpublic School Safety Equipment (NPSE) grant program, a streamlined grant for nonpublic school safety and security equipment. That allocation translates into roughly \$100 per pupil. Given the current circumstances, we write to respectfully request an increase in NPSE funding to \$90 million.

Considering that nonpublic schools are already forced to spend thousands of dollars annually on security needs, a figure that will significantly increase following recent attacks, we believe it is a moral imperative that we increase our state's commitment to keep New Yorkers safe.

Thank you for your commitment to these issues in the past. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael Gianaris'.

Senator Michael Gianaris
Deputy Majority Leader

